

Kleine Erdbebenkunde

Von Prof. Dr. Karl Jung. (Verständliche Wissenschaft, Band 37.) Pp. v+159. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1938.) 4.80 gold marks.

THIS admirable little book contains a large amount of information in a small space and, although succinct, is eminently readable. The nine chapters include such topics as macroseismic effects, the geography, nature and cause of earthquakes, the method of obtaining seismograms and information concerning shocks, the propagation of earthquake waves, microseisms, and the application of earthquake knowledge chiefly to seismic prospecting. Dealing with the cause of earthquakes, Prof. Jung says: "Concerning the fundamental causes of the formation of mountains, of earthquakes, and volcanicity there are only suppositions partly substantiated, and no one theory has yet found general recognition". Thereafter a nice balance is maintained between the various current theories, and an adequate discussion is given of the materials of the earth's crust and beneath the crust, which materials have sufficient strength to cause and maintain oscillations and yet yield to the forces required by isostatic theory.

The illustrations in the book are very clear and often give the results of much mathematical investigation without using a single mathematical symbol. The text is well informed and up to date. For more detailed information the student must consult the publications listed at the end of the book, which he must also do for the authors of the original works mentioned whose names are often omitted. The book is of handy pocket size and is very well printed.

E. T.

African Odyssey

By Joseph Crad. Pp. 286. (London: John Gifford, Ltd., 1939.) 12s. 6d. net.

MR. CRAD'S story of his youth and early manhood in South Africa is an "Iliad" rather than an "Odyssey"; for its main interest lies in combat of the truly heroic type. His story of life in South Africa, nearly fifty years ago, when he was pioneering in the country of the Matabele, is Homeric in its zest for battle. He took part in the Matabele War, which ended in the death and defeat of Lobengula; and then for a period was in East Africa, working in Zanzibar and making a trading journey on foot to Lake Tanganyika, when he was attacked by raiding Masai. He then travelled in other parts of the world; but of his adventures we are not told, his narrative being concerned with Africa only. In addition to service in the Boer War, he fought with the Natal forces in the suppression of the Zulu rising of 1906-7.

Mr. Crad's view of the native peoples of South Africa, notwithstanding his experience of the cruelties practised in their raids in his early days, is impartial, and for certain sides of their character he has no little admiration. In the light of his knowledge of the native he confidently anticipates that trouble, similar to that which caused the Zulu rising in 1906, is likely to recur.

The book, in view of its intimacy of detail, is a record of a phase in the relations of black and white, now completely passed away, which is of more than ephemeral interest. It is also a vivid picture of the practical working of the Matabele and Zulu military organization.

Capri

Per Immanuel Friedlaender. Tradotto da Angelo de Angelis. Pp. 168+12 plates. (Roma: Societa Italiana Arti Grafiche, 1938.) 25 lire.

ALTHOUGH Capri, the small island lying at the entrance to the Bay of Naples, has a total area of only some four square miles, it has an extensive literature. Its many interests have brought it fame since the days when it was the resort of Roman emperors. Prof. Friedlaender attempts with considerable success to survey all aspects of the island. The peculiar geological structure of the caves and caverns of the island is fully discussed, and the flora and fauna receive special notice. The second half of the book deals with the story of the people, the antiquities and the history, and concludes with a bibliography. If the volume contains little that is new, it collects much scattered matter in an accessible form. There is a map on a scale of 1:12,000 in an end pocket.

Practical Organic Chemistry

By Dr. Frederick George Mann and Dr. Bernard Charles Saunders. Second edition. Pp. xiii+418. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1938.) 8s. 6d. net.

THIS new issue is unchanged, except that it contains an account (2 pp.) of Middleton's sodium carbonate-zinc method for detecting nitrogen, halogens and sulphur in organic compounds, with the addition of some useful tables of physical constants (m.p. and b.p.) of organic compounds (12 pp.). The publication of a second edition of this work two years after its original appearance testifies to its fundamental soundness. It meets admirably the requirements of general degree courses in practical organic chemistry, and may be heartily recommended also to more junior students.

J. R.

Principles of Genetics

By Prof. Edmund W. Sinnott and Prof. L. C. Dunn. (McGraw-Hill Publications in the Botanical Sciences.) Third edition. Pp. xiv+408. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1939.) 21s.

WITHOUT an appreciable increase in size, this edition includes adequate treatment of recent work, such as position effect, somatic crossing-over, salivary-gland chromosomes, cytoplasmic inheritance and heterosis. This has been achieved by considerable rewriting, which appears to have improved the text. This third edition contains a remarkably complete and well-illustrated simple statement of the elements of genetics for biological students. The subjects of crossing-over and the chromosome theory of heredity, highly important in modern genetics, are dealt with particularly well.

F. W. S.